

# A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

VOLUME V: H—K.

I—IN (*adverb*).

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## NOTE.

THIS double Section, beginning the letter I, of which it constitutes one-fourth, contains 2503 Main words, 201 Combinations explained under these, and 544 Subordinate entries of obsolete forms, etc.; 3248 in all. The *obvious combinations*, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring individual explanation, number 367 more. Of the 2503 Main words, 1700 are current and fully 'English', 750 (nearly 30%) are marked † as obsolete, and 53 ( $2\frac{1}{3}\%$ ) as † alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some more recent dictionaries shows the following figures:—

|  | Johnson. | Cassell's<br>'Encyclopædic.' | 'Century' Dict. | Funk's 'Standard.' | Here.  |
|--|----------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------|
| Words recorded, <i>I</i> to <i>In</i>  | 501      | 1644                         | 1911            | 1930               | 3615   |
| Words illustrated by quotations  | 409      | 663                          | 967             | 287                | 2997   |
| Number of illustrative quotations  | 1193     | 938                          | 2242            | 413                | 14,408 |
| The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 1529. |          |                              |                 |                    |        |

The history of the letter I and its sounds is given in the first article. The salient feature of initial I in modern English is the extent to which it is of Latin origin. In OE. the number of words beginning with I was comparatively small: in Bosworth-Toller's *Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*, I occupies 18 pages as against 90 pages of H; that is, the I-words equal barely one-fifth of the H-words. But, in modern English Dictionaries, I occupies as much or even more space than H, and in actual number of words far exceeds H. This enormous growth of I as an initial is due to accessions from Latin and Greek, especially the former, and particularly to the vast host of words marshalled under the Latin prefixes IN- (with its phonetic variants *il-*, *im-*, *ir-*), INTER-, INTRA-, INTRO-. The prevalent Latinic character of the vocabulary will be even more marked in the sections that follow; in this we do not enter upon the *in*-group, and have also a few important words of Teutonic origin, viz. the pronoun I; the substantive ICE, with its numerous derivatives (so many of them naturally of American introduction); the adjective IDLE; the conjunction IF; the preposition and adverb IN (the longest article in I). There is also the Norse adjective and adverb ILL, with its combinations, which has so largely dispossessed the earlier English *yfel*, EVIL. The word IMP also, though originally borrowed, goes back to OE., and its remarkable sense-development ('graft, shoot, scion, child, child of the devil, little devil or demon') is altogether English. Among the important words, of later introduction, are the trio, IDOL, IMAGE, ICON, with their derivatives *idolatry*, *imagine*, *imagination*, etc.; the philosophical IDEA, *ideal*, *idealism*; the words *identity*, *ignoramus*, *ignorant*, *ignore*, *immigrant* (new in America c 1790); *immune*, brand-new in medical use, but in the sense of 'exempt from legal burdens' known as far back as 1420. Other words of historical interest are *impeach*, *imperial*, *imprest*, *imprimatur*, *impropriation*. Noteworthy sense-development is shown in *illustration*, *imbibe*, *imbrue*, *impertinent*, *implement*, *implicit*, *import*, *imposition*, *impression*, and esp. in IMPROVE, of which the primary signification, 'turn to good account, or to profit', 'make good use of', still survives in to 'improve the occasion', 'improve the shining hour', and in New England in other old-fashioned uses.

The proportion of obsolete words (nearly 30%) is here greater than in any previous part—in H it was only  $16\frac{1}{3}\%$ . This is owing mainly to the fact that, taking our language as a continuous whole, the elements that have become obsolete since 1200 are not the native Teutonic words, but the Latinic formations of the 16th and 17th centuries, many of which were pedantic, cumbrous, or unnecessary, and were born only to die at once or after a very short living use. But there is one class of OE. words which has almost disappeared since 1200, namely the compounds in *i-* = OE. *ge-*, Ger. *ge-* (in *gebirge*, *gefallen*, *gesellschaft*, etc.). In southern English, these survived in large numbers to the 13th and 14th c.; the few that were retained in the 15th c. were usually spelt with *y-*, in which guise *y-clad*, *y-clept*, and a few others have been handed down by the Elizabethan archaists. As this is the form in which the prefix is known to modern readers, it might have seemed proper to relegate all these obsolete compounds to Y, but this would really have been to falsify their history, since the great majority are only found with *i-*, not having survived to the era of the *y-* spelling. Those that did so survive are treated under Y, and cross-references are freely given between the two letters.